

NOVEMBER 6TH, 2024

The Jay County Commissioners met in session on Wednesday, November 6th, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. in the courthouse auditorium. Attending was Rex Journey, Brian McGalliard attorney Wes Schemenaur, auditor Emily Franks, and Chad Aker, president, presiding.

USI INSURANCE

Tom Schweisthal and Alex Dickman, Vice Presidents of Employee Benefits, came to discuss taking over as benefits broker for Jay County. Mr. Schweisthal explained they had been looking at different options for the county including partially self-funded options. While they had looked into partially self-funded options, they do not believe it is as viable of an option as in years past. Their recommendation would be to remain on the current plan. He added if they took over the current plan as the county's broker, they would utilize their underwriter to lower the renewal rate. They would also look at the large pharmacy claimant to come up with solutions to source the drug which is prescribed to less than .02% of the population.

They briefly discussed partially self-funded, the stop loss carrier declined to quote and there was not enough time to look into more companies. Another option available, individual contribution health insurance that would in essence take the county out of insurance claims. It would be an ICHRA Indiana Contribution Health Reimbursement Account. This option would see employees go out into the marketplace with the county contributing a set portion towards a plan instead of the current two plan structure. They estimate it would be a savings to the county of \$245,000 for 2025.

Mr. Schweisthal explained it would be the difference between a pension and a 401k. This would allow the employee to find a 401k that best fits their needs. The employee would enter population, age, zip code and would be sold individual plans. When it comes to renewal, the increase would be based on open rates of around 3-4%. It would take out the volatility for the county to create a budget. Mr. Journey questioned what the downsides were for the county to go to this option. They stated this option would be best if financials were the primary driver of a decision.

Brian McGalliard and Chad Aker expressed concerns with the current broker not offering partially self-funded options to the commissioners. Emily Franks, auditor, spoke in favor of the current broker, OneDigital, believing her knowledge and history of the group had driven the options brought forward in the past. She added the group always put the employee experience first. Lastly, she expressed concerns over the timing as employee elections needed to be determined before Thanksgiving. Mr. Dickman assured the commissioners the timeline was something they could work within.

Brian McGalliard made a motion to change the broker to USI Insurance and keep PHP fully insured as the carrier/plan. Rex Journey declined to second the motion. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by majority vote.

RETIREMENT CENTER

A county credit card request for Stacey Johnson, retirement center director, was submitted to commissioners for approval. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve a county credit card for Stacey Johnson. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Brian McGalliard also made a motion to remove former director Melissa Blankley from all bank accounts and to add Stacey Johnson. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

HIGHWAY

Bob Howell, superintendent, came to the commissioners to discuss the engineers estimate for Bridge 114 on 600 W. The estimate did not include the cost of guard rails. The solution would see a fix in 3-5 months instead of 2-3 years. Rex Journey made a motion to move forward with the repairs on Bridge 114. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

With no further business, Brian McGalliard made a motion to adjourn at 3:22 p.m; Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

[Signature]

Chad Aker

Brian McGalliard

Rex Journey

Attest:

Jay County Auditor

NOVEMBER 12TH, 2024

The Jay County Commissioners met in session on Monday, November 12th, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the courthouse auditorium. Attending was Brian McGalliard, attorney Wes Schemenaur, auditor Emily Franks, and Chad Aker, president, presiding. Absent was Rex Journey. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the minutes from October 28th, 2024. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

BUILDING & PLANNING

John Hemmelgarn, administrator, came to give the commissioners an update on operations. Mr. Hemmelgarn believes the numbers will increase following the election.

USI INSURANCE

Alex Dickman and Tom Schweisthal, Vice Presidents of Employee Benefits, came to the commissioners to discuss employee health insurance rates for 2025. They recommended option one for the county which had the employee rates remaining the same as January 1, 2024. Mr. Dickman reported they were able to get the underwriting materials and will review it over the next week for savings. The one item that caught their attention was the carrier stop loss insurance change from \$75,000 an employee to \$125,000 and gives them a reason to check the calculations on the numbers. The commissioners questioned the auditor her opinion on the rates for 2025. Ms. Franks explained option one had been the thought process and a safe financial option over the last several years. The second option she estimated would see the county spending the total amount budgeted for 2025. However, if the commissioners were looking to decrease the employee plus one plans, option two would see a decrease to those plans for employees. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve option two rates for the PHP plan. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

COURTHOUSE

Bruce Sutton, superintendent, came to give the commissioners an update on repair work related to the water damage on September 4, 2024. The drain leak has been repaired by Laux Plumbing. Once the down payment is made to Hayes and Son, work will commence on the repairs to the Recorder and Prosecutor's office. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the repair agreement with Hays & Sons and a claim for the downpayment of \$10,360.12. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

HIGHWAY

Bob Howell, superintendent, came to the commissioners to discuss the operational report. They have been grading roads and berming. The wheel loader should be delivered the first week of December from CASE. The truck has been listed on the PurpleWave for auction. Lastly, Mr. Howell reported they have been continuing to work on the repair of bridge 114. All interested contractors will have until November 21st to submit quotes for installation. Mr. Howell will work on gathering quotes for the guardrail.

SHERIFF

Larry "Ray" Newton, sheriff, came to the commissioners to discuss the meal contract. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the contract with Canteen Services for an initial term of three years. The agreement may be terminated with 90 days' notice from either party. The contract was discussed through the 2025 budget process. This would eliminate the three jail cook positions which Sheriff Newton has only been able to fill one of the positions for

2024. Carteen may offer employment to the remaining employee. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

CONTRACT ORDINANCE

Wes Schemenaur, county attorney, updated the commissioners on the new law regarding contract procedures effective July 1st, 2024. A county official is defined by statute to include elected officials and the money must have been already appropriated by the council. The contract will be submitted to the auditor for the review of the commissioners and county attorney. They will have 20 days to review the contract to ensure it meets state and local regulations. As part of the 20 days, they will let the official know if changes are required to the contract. If it meets all necessary requirements, the commissioners shall approve the contract. However, if the commissioner disagrees with the contract based on other reasons the county official can change the contract or go ahead and sign it. The signed contract will be due to the auditor within 10 days of signing. If the official does not follow the proper procedures, it can be voided by the commissioners.

Mr. Schemenaur suggested the county ordinance include termination language to eliminate automatic renewal clauses and that any dispute over the contract be filed in Jay County. Larry "Ray" Newton, sheriff, mentioned delegating contracting authority if under a certain dollar amount. He also asked commissioners to consider increasing the purchasing limit from \$1,000 up to a higher amount. Mr. Schemenaur clarified the contracting ordinance could delegate the authority to the elected official if money is allocated in the budget and is under a certain dollar amount. He will send out a draft copy of the ordinance for the commissioners to review before their next meeting.

FARM GROUND

Emily Franks, auditor, asked for clarification the farm ground bids scheduled for December. The first was related to the farm ground located at the retirement center. Mr. Journey had requested all ground be bid out together as tillable acreage and to not include the barn for lease. The current leases are for 258.87 tillable acres, 23 acres pasture, and 11.93 pasture and barn. The total acreage will be 293.8 acres total. After discussion, Brian McGalliard made a motion to advertise the three leases as one, excluding the barn. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. The second was whether the commissioners would like to bid out the 68 acres for another year lease. Brian McGalliard made a motion to bid out the 68 acres for a one-year term. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

OOR- Owner Occupied Rehab PROGRAM

Nate Kimball, ECI Regional Planning Assistant Director, came to the commissioners and updated them on the Owner-Occupied Rehab program. They will be putting out the first 25-26 homes for bid. The bids will be opened by the commissioners on November 27th, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. The bids will be due to the auditor's office by 1:30 p.m. on November 27th. A pre-bid meeting will be held in the auditorium on November 19th, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. and he invited the commissioners to attend. The meeting will primarily be for interested contractors to speak directly with EGIS.

EXTENSION OFFICE

The 2025 agreement with Purdue Extension for services in the amount of \$127,510 was presented for commissioners' approval. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the agreement with Purdue for 2025. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

COUNTY WEBSITE

Emily Franks, auditor, discussed with the commissioners the county obtaining an IN.gov website. The county would meet the requirement for a basic website which would come at no expense. However, they would not be able to offer anything for livestreaming meetings and would require a YouTube Channel. Therefore, she would recommend keeping both websites for the time being. The website through the state would offer a free platform for online payments. The current vendor for the treasurer will no longer be an option at the end of this year. An estimated timeline for completion will be by the end of the year. There will be a scope of work that will need to be signed, but is only looking for approval to move forward in the process at this point. Brian McGalliard made a motion to move forward with

the county obtaining an in.gov website. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

CHRISTMAS AT THE COURTHOUSE

Bruce Sutton discussed the Christmas at the Courthouse with the commissioners. The event will be November 22, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting will be after it happens. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the event. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

The payroll docket was presented for commissioners' approval. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the payroll docket. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The county home report for October 2024 was presented for commissioner approval. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the county home report. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

A county credit card request was submitted by Melissa Elliott, clerk-elect, and current first deputy. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve a county card for Melissa Elliott. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

A claim was submitted for The Restore Store for \$1,580.50 related to IT work at the sheriff's department. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the claim to The Restore Store, Chad Aker seconded the motion.

A claim to the county credit card for lodging at a district conference in Logansport for the recorder in the amount of \$107 was presented for commissioner approval. The training was within the 100-mile radius which is required to be approved by commissioners. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the expenditure. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

With no further business, Brian McGalliard made a motion to adjourn at 9:48 a.m.; Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chad Aker
Chad Aker

Brian McGalliard

Rex Journey
Rex Journey

Attest: *Smith Stark*
Jay County Auditor